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EDITORIALS

EXCELSIOR

We want to express our appreciation of the interest shown by the students in the last issue. The magazine was entirely "sold out" in two hours. With the student body back of us, to what heights can we raise the OHIO STATE ENGINEER?

Our Dean says that Ohio State University has one of the best Engineering Colleges in the country, therefore our magazine must also be one of the best. This has been the aim of every staff since the first magazine was published and will be as long as the OHIO STATE ENGINEER is in existence. Only those who worked on the first staffs can appreciate the struggle to launch the magazine and keep it floating. Then the fight to attain a certain goal, and no sooner was it attained than another was in sight. Let us all work together to attain all the goals that will make the OHIO STATE ENGINEER the best Engineering magazine in the country. As that old song says, "Every little bit added to what you have makes a little bit more," so let us add to our magazine until our goals are reached.

"TEE" YOUNG

And now we have an Engineer football captain. Frank D. Young, better known as "Tee," was selected by his teammates to lead the 1924 team. "Tee" is well qualified for the position of captain and is a fighter. He played his best games against Chicago and Illinois when he outplayed the veteran center, King, of the Windy City crew and was instrumental in stopping Illinois' prospective All-America, Grange. Many hearts settled back into their normal position when he brought the Illinois flash to earth.

"Tee" hails from Toledo where he played on the Waite High School team with "Boni" Petcoff. He came to State in 1920 and tried out for tackle. In 1921 he won his "O" at tackle. This year Dr. Wilce shifted him to center which he held down creditably. In his freshman year, "Tee" was adjudged the most perfect physical specimen in the class.

DANGEROUS POLITICS

Should the Engineer engage in governmental and political affairs? Undoubtedly this would benefit the country and should be encouraged. However, we cannot expect an Engineer to forsake his position in industry for civic service unless he is given fair play. We must eliminate such practices as are pointed out in an editorial of a current issue of the *University of Virginia Journal of Engineering*. The editorial in full is as follows:

A few weeks previous to the appearance of this issue of the *Journal* a heavy political "stick" was used in Washington in such a way as to clearly define the handicap under which one of the most important departments of the Government is at present laboring. Secretary of the Interior Hubert Work, feeling the embarrassment of a political debt as yet unpaid, ousted one of the most efficient and talented engineers that the Reclamation Service has ever had in its employ. Arthur Powell Davis, one of the leading engineers of the country, without preliminary notice of any description, was notified that his services were no longer needed. This, with the abrupt tone of the notice, was particularly insulting to a man of such accomplishments. This engineer, ousted without reason and with scant courtesy, has been replaced by a

politician, a political friend of Secretary Work. It is interesting to note that the second head of the Service, also a Mr. Davis, has done absolutely nothing to warrant such confidence that seems to be placed in him. Secretary Work made the lame excuse that a business man was needed for the position, inferred that Mr. A. P. Davis was not a business man and that his successor is. The first inference so derived has been shown to be without grounds, for the very government of which Mr. Work is "agent," has requested that Mr. Davis, if matters are capable of being so arranged, go abroad and act as its representative in a deal in which high finances are involved. The successor has never been a business man, has never exhibited any inclination in such a calling and has never given indications that he would.

This condition of affairs clearly shows that the scientific and engineering branches of the Government must be beyond the reach of politicians adhering to the "spoils system" and for efficiency entitrely beyond the grasp of politics.

THE UNITED STATES SUPERPOWER SYSTEM

OUT of the maze of theories and systems which modern-day men are broadcasting, comes a new one which promises to be of such importance to sway the whole of our great nation. The gist of this system is a new method of generating and transmitting electricity on a greater scale, with much more economy. Its instigators plan to have electrical energy available wherever there is work for it to do.

The method by which these results will be obtained is very simple. After the nation's coal is mined, it is to be burned directly at the mouth of the mine, using water for condensing purposes, and in this way the electricity is obtained. It will then be sent forth on interlocked lines to all parts of the country. Once this plan is put in action, results will follow quickly and will be seen in having power generated at its course, power providing its own delivery force and power instantly available at much lower prices than at present.

Even though we, as Americans, are considered as one of the greatest people on the earth, we are also the greatest wasters. Our available water-power energy is being wastd by under-development. The greater portion of our coal is burned as fuel to haul coal. We waste coal and its energy by unwise consumption, which leads to our yearly coal famines. Even the coal we burn is wasted to a great extent, because of the many by-products produced through combustion and throw away. The superpower system will remedy these conditions, besides giving many more beneficial conditions.

This plan will secure more power for the convenience and work of the farmer. It will immediately improve our national transportation facilities by taking the coal factor away, thereby making room for other shipments with better service. This will also conserve our fuel resources, thus relieving this country of a great problem. Even our labor will become more effective and the prices of manufactured goods will drop quickly.

Another problem of our present-day life is the one of over-crowded cities and conditions resulting from them. Cities are saturated, traffic is immense, rents are high, local transportation is poor, and the people have no place for outdoor rest or play. The huge population of such cities have practically no community spirit, and are constantly victimized by men in charge of the city's welfare. The new super-power plan will relieve this condition, and will save time wasted by local transportation and losses caused by transporting food and supplies to these cities.

But, even though there are many disadvantages in city life, there are also many advantages. It secures one's social contact and a familiarity with the solutions to social questions. Many industries, concentrated together in cities, foster trade, art and recreation by the myriads of men attracted for employment. All of these advantages are far out-balanced by the disadvantages.

Superpower will aid in the development of small towns, causing industries to settle and produce there. As the productions from these factories increase, transportation facilities must be improved, and the small town benefits from it.

Many new uses for electricity wil be created by the use of this project. Steel furnaces will be electrically operated, wasted metals will be salvaged by electrolysis, and new metals will be produced, much stronger and purer than before.

When one thinks of the various forms of power wasted each year, the importance of this plan is magnified. Our oil output is wasted seventy-five per cent, our natural gas supply is diminished eight hundred billon cubic feet a year through waste, and our water power is only one-tenth developed, hence nine-tenths is wasted.

Superpower will combat the scarcity and high prices of coal, and will raise credit for the farmer by assisting depressed money markets. Many small plant manufacturers are struggling with the cost of power regarding the cost of production and are swamped by it. The American citizen is confronted every year with the problem of making his income meet the increased price of coal.

Think of all the benefits which will be given the farmer by this development of power. His comforts and conveniences will be increased, his farm efficiency will be raised, his available power will be without limits, and hence, his productions will be doubled or even trebled. As the factories come to the small towns near the farmers, population will come with them, thus providing a convenient labor supply for the farmer. This supply will be available for either shop or farm work. Markets will thus center near the factories so as to be near production.

The greatest effect of this system is, however, in cities and in the factories. Factories will migrate and settle in smaller towns where each part can best be made and then assembled near the centers of trade. Why will they leave? Because of the cheap power supply, convenient access to raw material, and a greater chance for expansion. The rent asked in small towns is much less than the rent asked in the cities, while transportation is also much better.

This new plan is not made for the purpose of breaking the trusts, but only to utilize new industrial opportunities. his principle is understood by notable and authorative men and has won the opproval of many of them. Both Steinmetz, the late electrical wizard, and Ford, the production wonder, have given their approval and have predicted great possibilities in the future. An even greater approval is the "Super-power Commission" created by Congress. This body of men has estimated that over sixty per cent of all production costs of this country would be saved.

Surely no better proof of the practicability and effectivenes of the super-power plan could be given than by this group of American, picked as representatives of the people, and controlling our country's future.